

## HOMECOMING EDITION

# THE BELL RINGER

Montgomery Bell Academy

4001 Harding Road Nashville, TN 37205

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## Administration plans mandatory drug testing

### Unanimous support does not abound

By Jack Hallemann and Ryan Hill  
Staff Writer and Features Editor

To all those seeking answers regarding drug tests and rumors of drug tests in the near future, this article has been written for you. Last week, Mr. Gioia was kind enough to take a few minutes to answer many of Ryan's questions regarding the tests, and Jack has done some investigating to get a feel for the vast variety of opinions in response to this new, unfolding event on The Hill.

On registration day for the junior class this past August, Athletic Director Scott O'Neal pulled quite a prank on a crowd of unsuspecting teenagers. Over the summer, a rumor began to circulate among students that drug testing would be conducted on the first day of school, or at least soon after, and this fact apparently did not go unnoticed by the administration. As the class of 2011 sat in the gym that morning, semi-listening to the correct procedure for obtaining clothes, locks, and lockers, the sluggish and the sleep-deprived were suddenly jolted awake by one new addition to the process: peeing in a cup! As it turns out, Mr. O'Neal was only kidding about the urine test, but he proceeded to seriously advise anyone who had been scared for a reason to think about changing a few things.

As it turns out, this advice really is a sign of things to come. At some point this year, there will be a school-wide drug test, though the hair follicle procedure is most likely to take the place of the urine test. Analyzing hair samples is a longer and more expensive process, but it yields more



In light of several deplorable incidents last year, the administration plans to implement follicle-based drug testing this winter. Almost everyone felt the impact of the many bad decisions made on and around the MBA campus last year, but don't think, then, that these tests are designed to get rid of anyone with bad judgment. Drug testing is a very ambiguous process; it can seem invasive and unnecessary, but it also provides a way out for guys feeling the pull of peer pressure. Though there is no assurance of completely beneficial results, hopefully the main effect of the tests will be a new ability to say "No" based on the potential consequences of being found out.

Although a definite date has not been established, the testing is likely to take place this winter, perhaps early next year. Since this idea first became a big possibility at the end of the previous school year, Mr. Gioia and others felt that drug testing at the beginning of this year would be too early and that they needed more time to talk to parents, teachers, and students due to the gravity of the undertaking.

Our headmaster has long been opposed to the idea of a school-wide test, but after talking to some of the boys expelled last year because of involvement with drugs, he has come to regard it as a necessity. All of them believed that they wouldn't have made the choices they did had there been a mandatory drug test.

As for the punishment that a positive test will yield, the most likely result is not expulsion, though boys will have to pay for routine drug tests in the future if caught. The school isn't seeking to root out everyone who has ever lacked discretion at some point in his life, but instead to offer

correction and second chances. The truth is we all make mistakes, and sometimes a little incentive to do better is necessary, even though it may not be preferred.

As for opinions, the average student's response was one of three thoughts: "I don't really care because that doesn't affect me," "I don't believe it's true," and "When do I need to shave my head?" Although these are truly profound statements, Jack decided to interview some faculty instead, since they will be tested as well.

Several teachers were about as helpful as the students. When questioned about the legality of drug testing, Mr. Thumond responded, "I am the law."

In a valiant defense of Spanish culture, Señor Grey started yelling about how "Yerba Mate no es una droga!"

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## New grant encourages linguistic immersion

By Scott Blackwell  
Staff Writer

Most high school students have heard of the Wilson grants, money for college that the Wilson estate began awarding last year to MBA students who were exceptional, both in academics and in extracurriculars. Very recently, however, the Wilson family announced that they will be funding annually several trips for students taking a foreign language.

The family is giving 150,000 dollars annually, which should be enough to pay for every aspect of the trip for sixteen to twenty students. These trips will allow each

student to spend some six to eight weeks in the home of a Spanish, French, German, or Chinese family, providing the students with unprecedented practice in the language.

It is also estimated that students will reach a level of fluency where they can live their daily lives and not struggle after the first few weeks. It is also expected that such travel will allow an increase in their language proficiency to raise their AP score by at least one level, for example from level 4 to level 5.

In addition to exposure to the language, these grants would provide a recipient the chance to become more familiar with another country's native culture, changing

the student's perspective of the world as a whole.

These grants are not purely for modern language students, however, and two students studying Latin will also have the chance to travel to Rome and experience the culture and history it has to offer.

Although a trip like this will be an unparalleled chance to practice the language and experience the culture of another country, the primary purpose of these grants is to improve students' resumes and enhance applications for college acceptance. They will, therefore, not be available to seniors.

Foreign language teachers are also

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The generous new Wilson grant provides study-abroad opportunities.

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## THE BELL RINGER

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# The Health Care Debate: State control saves money...

By Aaron Lutkowitz  
Staff Editor

In 1932, Justice Brandeis began a notion that states served as laboratories of democracy that can "try novel social and economic experiments without risk to the rest of the country."

In terms of the healthcare debate in America, significant experimentation may be needed, and a state-focused, or federalist, policy would be the most successful.

My policy recommendation, outlined in a 2008 edition of *Health Affairs*, for the United States Federal government is three-fold. First, create a definition of what constitutes *adequate coverage* for every American citizen. Second, allow state governments to form their own plans of insurance. Third, outline a method of federal approval for these plans.

Because circumstances vary significantly across the country, a one-size-fits-all policy does not work. Each state can advance something unique for the country's healthcare woes. For example, Massachusetts developed a healthcare plan that effectively solved

the issue of coverage discontinuity, while West Virginia specialized in personal accountability with Medicare funding. State governments should be encouraged to implement innovative and creative ideas to allow for a wide range of approaches. Evolution of state policy can best occur when the Federal government removes as many obstacles as possible.

Currently, the federal government limits the ability of the states. It is illegal for anyone to switch healthcare plans to a different state. The federal government also prohibits a state to go into debt with federal funds, despite the federal government's tendency to exponentially increase its own debt. Both of these limitations must end to ensure the success of federalism. President Obama has traveled to town hall meetings across the country preaching the value of flexibility, choice, and competition. However, offering an omnibus federal plan has far less variety than creating fifty different options.

The federal government still plays an important role in state-focused policies. Federal plans like Medicare and Medicaid still require significant involvement from the federal government. Inter-state matters

should also be under the jurisdiction of the federal government.

Perhaps one of the most important roles that the Federal government would play is to provide financial reassurance. States like California are on the brink of economic collapse. Spurring on new health care plans may require the federal government to stimulate early development with cash injections. The approval process used to accept state health care plans can also be used to approve stimulus money to state health care proposals.

The price of this federalist plan would save the United States billions. Competition and choice force insurance companies to provide lower costs to consumers. A consumer market, choosing among fifty different state plans as well as private insurance plans, will lower exorbitant prices across the board. Because the state plans would still remain optional, the majority of Americans would continue to use private insurers, and tax increases to pay for these new plans would remain limited. All of the long-term cost-saving measures accounted for in a Federal proposal could be expanded in a more efficient state-focused system. Perhaps Brandeis should have been a doctor.

## ...Federal regulations needed

By Jesse Suh  
Staff Editor

Action is needed. That much is certain in the debate over health care reform. The National Coalition on Health Care says that government spending, projected to double over the next ten years, coupled with rising insurance premiums will have a negative impact on individuals and the economy as, already, 62 percent of bankruptcies and small businesses' laying off thousands of workers are directly related to medical expenses.

There are two, overarching reasons for the rising cost of healthcare: the fact that, according to the Census Bureau, over 15 percent of Americans still do not have any form of healthcare and, also, the failure of the private insurance system, which prioritizes profit-first over patient-first treatments.

The most effective solution to these issues would be a combination of stricter regulations on private insurance companies, federal authorization of interstate insurance commerce, and the introduction of a government-run, public option available to all U.S. citizens. Federally-enforced accountability measures toward private insurance companies are essential in bringing down healthcare costs. Private insurers often deny preventative

care, which would limit future visits to the doctor, because it would mean that patients would be less likely to need permanent care later, which would substantially raise premiums.

As President Obama cited in his address to the joint session in Congress, private insurers in the status quo are capable of dropping coverage for patients at crucial times, like the example of a man from Illinois, who had his coverage dropped during chemotherapy because he failed to report that he had gallstones. These examples of private insurers practicing profit-first treatments are only a few of many instances that the government could better regulate and set accountability standards to protect citizens.

Interstate insurance commerce would go far in bringing down premiums. Currently, federal restrictions prevent private insurers based in one state to sell insurance outside of that state. Lack of competition between private insurers in local regions leads to monopolies in which a single private insurer can raise premiums without risk of patients' having alternative insurance options with lower costs. Allowing insurance companies to branch to other states would lower premiums by creating the necessary competition between insurers for customers.

Covering the 15 percent of the population without insurance is another vital component to lower-

ing costs. Currently, those who are unemployed only receive emergency care, which is significantly more costly than normal care. The budget hole created by emergency care increases costs for everyone else using the healthcare system because insurers and hospitals need to make up the cost somehow. A government-run option that followed patient-first policies could also spur competition with private insurers, which could increase innovations in health care technologies and practices that help to lower costs.

The cost for reform, which could be paid through spending cuts in government expenses and the money saved through the elimination of current healthcare excesses, pales in comparison to the long-term implications to the economy even if reform did add to the deficit. The federal government is in an optimal position to act because it can pass comprehensive regulations for insurance companies and offer a universal public option to cover the uninsured and compete against private insurers, even when state programs and private insurers have failed.

The failure of the healthcare system for the uninsured millions should be enough reason for a healthcare overhaul, but healthcare costs are an issue that, if not acted on, will be a major concern for even those who have insurance and are concerned for the long-term interests of the economy.

## History Dept. aims to bring material to life

By Hayden Deakins  
Staff Writer

The history department has plans to supplement its curriculum. Currently, the department wants to arrange several new electives and seminars for seniors. Notably, the *Band of Brothers* leadership seminar,

where students watch the episodes in order and then talk about the leadership displayed by the characters, will continue again this year.

Also, because the Teddy Roosevelt impersonator that came to one of last year's assemblies was a big hit with teachers and students alike, the History Department is

looking into finding other impersonators or historical speakers for future assemblies.

The biggest change that the department is trying to institute involves both an on-campus and online interactive tour of historical maps and documents that are displayed on the top floor of Carter and in the library. In doing so, the department hopes

to raise not only the students' awareness of the rich history that surrounds Montgomery Bell Academy, but also the history of the communities near the school.

Obviously, the History department is trying to make each course dynamic and interactive, sparking students' interest in each branch of history taught at MBA.

## English cuts down on work load, paper use

By Hayden Deakins  
Staff Writer

The English department has made changes in a couple of areas. This summer, most students appreciated not having to write four different reports on the books assigned for summer reading. Instead, four separate quizzes were assigned to take during the first week of school, mainly over the plot summary of the books. This change is widely popular among the student body.

Another change has been made in the way students turn in their themes, paragraphs, and other homework assignments. This year, the use of drop boxes, an online service that can back up and store documents, pictures, and music, has been instituted. By sending homework as a digital copy to your teacher, much less paper is being used.



Lastly, the English department is benefiting from three new teachers: Mrs. Williams, who is completely new to MBA, and Mrs. Bakken and Mr. Russ, who now teach English in the Junior School.

## Math teachers feel need to innovate

By Paul Moore  
Staff Writer

The MBA math department is always looking to grow and improve the ways the teachers approach the wide variety of math courses.



MBA has received two new math teachers for the year. Mr. Kevin Frantz, a graduate in mechanical engineering from the University of California Berkeley, is not only new to the MBA community, but he has also brought some of his engineering methods to the classroom. He teaches Algebra II honors and Geometry honors. Mr. Mike Davidson, a Princeton graduate, is the second of the new teachers. He teaches a couple of Algebra I classes. He also works with college counseling and the chess club.


Many of the math teachers are

trying to make math more interesting in the classrooms. Some, such as Mr. Deutsch and Mr. Eppstein, are using Geometry sketch pads to provide visuals. Mr. Eppstein also plays Geometry Jeopardy to help his students review the previous material. Mr. Frantz gives all his students an engineering notebook, in which the students take notes and example problems so that when it's time for review, the students are able to look back at all they have done.

MBA's Math department takes seriously the need for innovation in the classroom.






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## Senior leadership appreciated by community

By Will Henry  
Entertainment Editor

The beginning of every school-year is rough. It's tough to adjust to the routine. But, as the first quarter rolls on, the seniors are getting in the groove of school.

For instance, after fasting for a month, Sami Ansari is finally able to eat at school again.

Special Olympics Bowling kicked off this Saturday. "It looks to be a super duper project," says project creator Ben "Mastaa of Disasta" Sutter. Joseph Lowe will be heading it up this year.

Campbell Haynes has been Avada Kedavra-ed every day by John Lowe and Neil Ryan without fail during first and second period. If Campbell says this statement is false, recognize that he is lying and move on.

Dalton Fouts has now officially become one of the United States' top students with his recent admission into Arizona State University.

Rumors have it that Jonathan Goliab was spotted rocking out to some Jonas Brothers music in his car on the way to the carnival. Upon questioning of the occurrence, Jonathan said, "No comment about that, but there are rumors abroad that I asked a blind and deaf amputee to Homecoming as my date. For the record, she isn't, though I say keep the rumors coming 'cause they are hilarious." Excuse me?



Seniors Pat Killian, Alvin Kim, and Campbell Kinnard demonstrate natural leadership abilities in assembly.

Speaking of homecoming, Kyle Brantley says, "I am pumped out of my mind since mi novia (HOLLY-singer songwriter) will be in town from Indiana for Homecoming."

Corbin Williams, Patrick Clarke, and Matt Bellet went to a recording studio to record "The Birthday Song" by the Beatles for MBA to send out to alumni.

Aldon Boston-Boyd and Will Henry went to Ensworth's Techno Rave and have come to the conclusion that MBA will need to throw an even more bangin' dance sometime this year.

Brad Bars is "hanging out with Kelly Lassing, and he's so excited (Don't tell Fitz)." I'll make sure to keep that on the down-low.

In other news, Jordan Herring wants to kill some birds with his Mossberg 12-gauge pump-action shotgun, Mac Hudson went to the Auburn-West Virginia football game, Alex Snow and Holden Mobley can't be friends outside of school, and Patrick Clarke has decided he prefers female vocals in rock music.

## Sophomore presence felt in varsity sports

By Joe Scherrer  
Staff Writer

Though most of us have been bogged down with work and other odd endeavors during the first few weeks of school, our class is playing a big role in varsity sports on campus, competing alongside seniors and, sometimes, even outdoing them. Here's what some of our classmates have been doing on the field.

Maclin Davis leads a very strong swimming team this year, along with Adam Cornett, Nathan Stinson, Jim Hollahan, Alex Rotker, Aidan Davis, and Jamie Joyce. Maclin is now an All-American swimmer and is fifth in the nation in the fifty-meter freestyle.

Daniel Peters, like his brother, is a valuable member of the cross country team, followed closely by a new varsity member, Myles Anderson – both run a 5K in under 18:00. The JV team also has many promis-

ing members for the seasons to come.

In the tooth-and-claw battle of debate, Zach Chen and Kelly "Caveman" Haselton rule their field. Will Stewart and Karthik Sastry also compete in extemp, and at the time of this writing, Karthik is ranked fifth in the nation.

Connor Yakushi is the top sophomore sharpshooter on the varsity rifle team, scoring 569 out of 600 points at his most recent match in Kentucky. He is followed closely by Winn Van Cleave and Adam Hawiger, both shooting above 550.

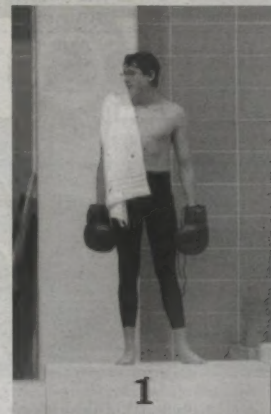
Austin Doebler, Roe Moore, and Brandon Sauermann all contribute to a dedicated and determined golf team, with Roe scoring a stinging one under par at trials and Austin shooting even.

Hunter Woolwine starred as Chief Sitting Bull in the musical *Annie Get Your Gun* and Hoke Smith, Aaron Ardlisson, John Elam, and Eric Walsh were in the ensemble. Awesome play, guys, keep up the

good work!

Now what we're all waiting for: football. James Kay is our starting linebacker and an integral part of defense, leading the team in tackles. Jhamall Wright is a linebacker and safety and sealed the game last Friday against McCallie. Along with the expert leadership of Caleb Counce, Alex Kohls, and Mattison Hamilton, the team continues to excel and hopes to go on to win State. Also on the field are managers Will Stephenson, Warren Lipscomb, and Marshall Sorenson, who work tirelessly, literally sun-up to sundown, to make this team work. Good luck to all of them!

We also have some awesome events coming up in the next few weeks. This weekend are the Homecoming game and, of course, the dance (still looking for a date...). Then we have the class trip to Louisville for a day of roller coasters, girls, and barbecue – as Coach Golenor put it, "the best day of your short, short lives!"



Maclin Davis just wants to swim fast.

## Freshmen elect officers, fear first real dance

By McLean Hudson  
Staff Writer

As the first quarter of school continues, life on The Hill is picking up.

First and foremost on everyone's mind, of course, is Homecoming. Being the first major dance many of our 9<sup>th</sup>-grade classmates have attended, Homecoming is a bit overwhelming: who can I ask that someone isn't already taking? With what

group am I going to go? What am I going to wear, and how am I supposed to learn all those hip, new dance moves?!

Not to worry everyone! Homecoming is made out to be bigger than it is. Just ask a girl who is a friend, dismiss the pressure, and have a good time.

The freshmen recently elected their class officials for the coming year. Congratulations to Lucas Littlejohn (president), Colin Caldwell (vice), Andrew Karpas

(secretary), Tom Kaiser (treasurer), and the student council reps: Jack Benton, BI and Furman Haynes, John Tully, William Yang, McKay Proctor, and Jake Macey. We know you'll do a great job.

The freshmen football team picked up a big win last week against undefeated Siegel. Despite many starters being unable to play, the Big Red triumphed in the second overtime on a Cade Hooper touchdown run to tie, and a Jody Gorham extra-point to

seal the victory. Thanks to everyone who came out to support us!

Chris Hooks would like to announce that he is once again making his drum covers and posting the videos on his Facebook page and Youtube. So check them out!

Nicholas Green would also like to make an announcement: BOWLING! (...?)

# Juniors plan holidays, turf wars during lunch

By Andrew Powell  
News Editor

**Alex Austin**, if you're reading this, check your fantasy team. I proposed a trade: **Van East** and **Tyler Franks** for **DeAnte Hughes** and **Elic Hunt**.

Now that that business is taken care of, on to the good stuff (well... I don't know if you'd really call it "good"). This particularly average article of junior news will not only be jam-packed with football because I do most of my investigative reporting during lunch, and that's mainly what we gentlemen, scholar, athletes are talking about then, but it will also misplace its modifiers every once in a while.

**Jesse Suh** says that his soul got crushed because the Redskins lost to the Lions. "Yeah... me, too," chimed in **Walty "baby facey" Macey**. "How 'bout them Jets. I'm a Jets fan."

Public announcement from **P Reddy**: "Thug Thursday is 4 real. Erry Thursday people gotta come to school dressin' as thug as Mr. Tillman allows. By the way, National Tre' Fo' holiday is March 4."

In a sleeper pick of a turf rival, **Max Werthan** has reportedly formed the "Jewniors," which currently has one member. They meet daily, including weekends. Watch yo back tre fo.

On an unrelated note, ex-MBA student **Evan Newport** has apparently taken to film-making.

**Paul Bamson** says he lost his wallet and phone this past weekend. Hope you find them, Paul. On a side-note, the **Pauls Bamson, Baker, and Van Pernis** have been

"wipin' her down" all school year.

**Daniel Rundberg** tells me, "Rifle did great - it was hot. Off to MEHAP." And he promptly left the lunchroom where I was gathering info.

On that note, **Andre Lucaci** said something funny, but it was forever lost because ink on napkins (my choice of parchment for this particular article) sometimes smears during the course of the day. Sorry, Andrei.

Last weekend, **Michael Peters, Ryan Hills, and Hayes McCords** repped the junior class as the top 7 MC runners traveled to McCallie for the McCallie Invitational. Unfortunately, the meet was cancelled for weather, but the day was not all a loss because Hayes proceeded to own a sackful himself at Krystal.

**Van East** would like to say, "Hello, Van" - his way of giving a shout out to himself. Sure thing, QB! For those of you who don't know, Van stepped up in a big way and balled hard this past weekend at McCallie. Roll, red, roll; go, Van, go.

**Nathan Tinnell** has been enjoying Spirit Week but has been bogged down with a lot of work recently. I second Coach Tinnell's statements.

In a photo finish, **Jack Hallemann** beat out **Hayden Morgan** for longest hair of anyone in the Roll Red Roll Call. That hair really puts the second "n" in Hallemann.

The neglected one, **John "sley" Wyse**, left the hose on all night. His mom wasn't happy. He also claims to have started his homework on Saturday last weekend, after spearheading the second annual Satco run on Friday - **JW, Wally, tre fo, and**



Partha Reddy, a leading member of the junior class, dresses for "Thug Thursday."

**Flautt** were the brave participants, with transportation provided by Dillards. **Collin Brannon, Ben Crook, and Will Farrar** (rawr rawr) are yet to show up to XC practice.

**Cody Fisher** likes it that Zeus Tebow is not dead after his frightening head injury. **Elic Hunt** says Covenant Pres churchball is looking to make a run this year

after last year's rebuilding year.

And last, but not least, **Mason K** has already asked **Emily Roach** to 2010 MBA Homecoming. Upon hearing this news, **Clay Garrett** drove by her house 10 times in mourning and cried so much that his chin fell off.

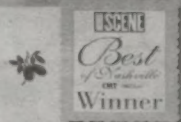
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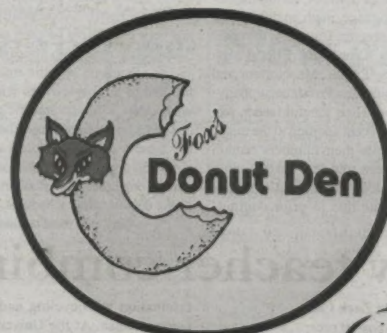
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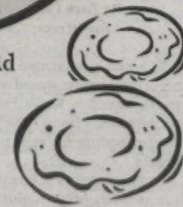
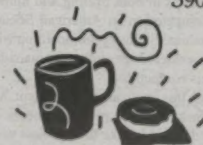
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## Mandatory drug testing comes to the Hill

*continued from page 1*

For a while, Jack thought the search was all a bust, but luckily he was able to steal Mr. Golenor for a few minutes in between boom-a-rang sessions and get his opinion. He is very supportive of the system and believes that substance abuse is such a big issue that action must be taken to eliminate it. It is a privilege to attend such a fantastic school as MBA, and we must hold ourselves to the highest moral standard. His only qualm with drug testing is that he wishes there were a way to test students for alcohol.

Dr. Dickens revealed that the faculty has not received a detailed structure of how the drug testing will be conducted and handled. While he is supportive of any attempt to reduce the use of drugs, he remains concerned about the fairness of the ordeal. He is very hopeful that the test could be used to educate students, as opposed to merely punishing them. Parental involvement will

also prove to be a major factor in keeping families drug-free. Dr. Dickens, however, believes alcohol to be a bigger issue on the MBA campus than drug abuse.

Dr. Tarkington, who underwent drug testing as an athletic requirement in high school, feels that the test is a compelling incentive to resist temptation. He thinks it is a shame, however, that the administration needs to go to such lengths and that this implementation is a direct response to the failure of a small number of students to live up to the expectations of MBA. Students should be able to help each other regulate themselves, but once this fails, the administration must intervene. One major hangup Dr. Tarkington has with the process is that a hair test requires handing your DNA over to a private company, and, as Dr. T said, "Hair strands can tell a scientist a lot more about a person than just what he's been smoking." For this reason, he would prefer a urinalysis test for genetic privacy. On a further note,

he assured Jack he does not do opium, but he loves poppyseed muffins.

Dr. Kinch presented a much different side of the argument. He pointed out that some people may consider the testing a serious invasion of privacy and is concerned with the attention the administration pays to the process. Since DNA rights have not been strictly defined, which raises concerns about health care and medical insurance, any casual aspects of the testing would be inappropriate.

Like Dr. Dickens and Mr. Golenor, he also believes that drinking is the biggest problem MBA faces and that the school should concentrate on alcohol more heavily. In the end, he challenged Jack to consider refusing the test on principle. Depending on the convictions of each student, this idea may not be that farfetched. If a student feels that his rights are being violated, the school should be conscious of the implications of its actions. Clearly, obedience will be the

easiest and most appreciated approach to the testing, but everyone should understand what they're doing instead of just blindly following the administration's directions.

Despite varying opinions on the appropriateness of drug testing, surely most, if not all, of the teachers at MBA would agree that substance abuse is a problem that needs to be addressed. It would be great if we as a student body were able to control ourselves or at least keep ourselves out of the public eye, but when that fails, we are left with drug testing.

Hopefully, in the near future Mr. Gioia will outline exactly when and what will happen. We urge students to make good choices if only for the reason that you don't want to be expelled. Also, consider standing up for your rights without the fear that doing so will immediately cast you as guilty. Let's make this new development on The Hill a success and seek to regain the student integrity which has been lost to poor decisions in

## Faculty members make time for informal choir

By Daniel Mace  
Staff Writer

No one can deny how talented our faculty and teachers are here at MBA. Whether it is their witty humor, steadfast leadership, or breath-taking looks, I am constantly amazed at the wealth of talent that surrounds MBA students daily. However, until recently, I was clueless as to the population of world-class vocalists MBA houses on its staff.

Yes, the rumors are true. MBA has a faculty choir. This group of vocalists truly represents all areas of MBA, including faculty from the language, math, maintenance, and music departments. Currently, the choir consists of Mrs. Qian, Mrs. Ellery, Mrs. Christeson, Mrs. Pippin, Mr. Norton, and Herr Sawyer, with Mrs. Power accompanying on the piano. Their toneful leader, Mr. Matt Smyth, is a recent addition to the music department. While their numbers remain small, I have been told that several other faculty have voiced interest yet currently cannot participate due to prior commitments.

The faculty choir originally started as a group of music department faculty that would perform at MBA events as needed. The plans were soon laid for a small group of music department members who would rehearse very little and move quickly through material solely for the purpose of MBA performances. It is common knowledge, however, that MBA teachers are fierce gossipers, and word soon spread about the choir. What began as a strictly-business vocal group quickly evolved into much more.

Mr. Smyth describes the current group as a "very relaxed group (who) casually rehearse and generally get to know each other better." Additionally, the singers are very supportive of each other, and the rehearsals create a fun atmosphere.

With no specific music to cover, the group simply covers whatever they wish. Also, while no specific dates are set, the choir hopes to perform soon in front of the faculty to pique interest and build in size. The group never criticizes each other over wrong notes and usually runs over time limits despite strict schedules.

Why, you most certainly are asking

yourself, is this important to me, an MBA student? Well, I submit to you, that overall teacher happiness and camaraderie is an extremely beneficial quality to all students. If all teachers were to join the choir, imagine the possibilities. Teachers would generally grade papers in a happier disposition, whistling in class would be encouraged, and most demerits could be excused with a

rendition of MBA's alma mater in two-part harmony.

With these benefits in mind, it is imperative that all students encourage their teachers to join the choir. After all, who in their right mind *wouldn't* want to see Mr. Tillman belt out a baritone rendition of "Wipe 'er Down" every lunch period?



The faculty choir, a casual group of talented teachers, practices in Davis.

## New teacher combines diverse passions

By Zach Chen  
Staff Writer

As a new year started at MBA, a number of new teachers arrived on The Hill. Among that number, Kevin Frantz, who teaches Algebra II Honors and Geometry Honors, has perhaps the most remarkable background.

Mr. Frantz studied at American River College in Sacramento, California, and graduated in 1987 with an Associate Degree in Mathematics. From there he continued on to the University of California at Berkeley, where he graduated with his BSME (Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering) in 1990. In 1995, Mr. Frantz received a Rotary scholarship and the opportunity to live and study abroad in Germany. He studied at the University of Saarbrücken in 1995, where he received his master's degree.

Mr. Frantz has always had a unique

fascination with cycling and the natural power of man. At the University of California at Berkeley, Mr. Frantz, spurred on by his interest in both cycling and human power, competed in an American Society for Mechanical Engineers competition with some classmates. As seniors, they managed to win this competition.

With this major accomplishment, Mr. Frantz along with the other engineers on his team decided to take their project even further. After they got a contract with an aerospace adhesive company for 100,000 dollars, they built their prototype for the Dexter Hysol Cheetah, a semi-recumbent, two-wheeled Human Powered Vehicle. This mechanical cheetah holds the world speed record for the 200-meter flying start event. The Cheetah averaged 68.73 miles per hour through a 200-meter speed trap. Today the Cheetah hangs in the Tech Museum in San Jose, California.

Mr. Frantz's interest in cycling has also led him to create a non-profit youth organization for cyclists in Nashville. This organization provided equipment and coaching for the youth, and they traveled around the country participating in different cycling events. Throughout the years, Mr. Frantz has worked with many world-class cyclists through this organization. Working with the youth around Nashville also led Mr. Frantz to start his career as a teacher.

Having just arrived at MBA as a new teacher, Mr. Frantz has quickly become accustomed to the rigorous studying habits enforced by MBA. He values the strive-for-excellence mindset present in the MBA community, but he also believes that teaching math should be a fun experience, and each student should be involved in the class. Even though Mr. Frantz is new at MBA, he already loves MBA and cannot wait for the surprises that it will bring.



Cycling is one of Mr. Frantz's talents.

## Former MBA swimmer enters internat'l arena

By Karthik Sastry  
Staff Writer

Curtis Lovelace ('08), winner of the coveted "Gentleman, Scholar, Athlete" award at MBA, is currently studying at Stanford University. A lifelong swimmer, Curtis was a repeat state champion in high school and has enjoyed success on the collegiate level as well. After a break-out performance at the World Championship Trials in July, Curtis was named to the USA Swimming National Team, an extraordinary achievement considering the U.S.' consistent success on the Olympic level. To highlight his accomplishment, I interviewed Curtis for *The Bell Ringer*. He chatted with me about his life as a student-athlete and his ambitions.

**BR:** Ringer: Congratulations, Curtis. Was it a tough fight to make the National Team?

**Curtis:** Yes. It's been a goal of mine, but I really haven't been even close until this year. I added a lot of muscle and specialized my training here at Stanford, which allowed me to take six seconds off my best 200m breaststroke time from last summer. It also helped to be training with a former NCAA champion breaststroker and former National Team member.

**BR:** How do you train, and what is your daily routine?

**CL:** I swim three mornings during the school week from 6:30-8:00 A.M. before class; every afternoon from 2:30-5:00 P.M.; and Saturday morning 7-10 A.M.; I also do strength training two to three times a week. On days when I have morning practice, I usually eat breakfast after practice and then head to class. I get some work done, eat lunch, maybe nap before an afternoon class,

and then go right from there to practice. Dinner after practice is followed by homework and maybe something fun later. I'm taking my computer science course online since it occurs during my afternoon practice.

**BR:** A lot has been written about Michael Phelps' 12,000 calorie diet. What is your diet like?

**CL:** Well, I definitely eat a lot of food during training season (which is basically year round with a few exceptions). I try to eat pretty healthy in general, to do everything that I can to be a better athlete, but I don't have a strict diet or anything. 12,000 calories seems a little exaggerated, but, if I had to guess, somewhere between 6,000-8,000 calories a day is about my intake. I definitely have to cut back on eating during the off-season when I'm not swimming as much, so I don't gain any unnecessary weight.

**BR:** How do you balance swimming with academics?

**CL:** That is truly the challenge. It takes a lot of organization and dedication, and there's definitely no room for procrastination. Whenever I have any time at all (even 10-15 minutes of free time during the day), I like to do something productive. So far, I've only taken normal course loads because otherwise I just wouldn't have enough time to fit everything in. The only problem that I've encountered so far is that some of the classes that I want to take are only offered during practice, but I can't do anything about that. Missing classes for competitions can be difficult, but the professors are generally nice about allowing for missed class.

**BR:** In what area are you planning to major, and what are your long-term career goals?



Curtis Lovelace ('08) races for Stanford and soon will compete internationally.

**CL:** I'm not sure about my major yet. I'm leaning towards a major called Management Science and Engineering (MS&E), which is a combination of financial decision-making, engineering, and technology-based business and economics. I've taken mainly prerequisites for engineering and economics, like physics, computer science, and higher level math. After I graduate, I may be looking at Business, Accounting, or even a Law degree.

**BR:** Everyone on the National Team seems to do very well at the Olympics. What are your thoughts for London 2012?

**CL:** Well, the hard part about making the U.S. Olympic team is that we are so good. It's generally harder to qualify for our team than it is to win a medal at the games. The Olympic team takes the top 2 fastest in each event; so, if the Olympics had been this past summer, I would have been close, but not quite there. It works out perfectly

that the 2012 Olympics falls right after my senior year of college, and hopefully I will be more than prepared to challenge for a spot on the team. I think that going to London would be amazing, so after this summer my eyes have definitely been opened towards the possibility of actually going.

**BR:** How has your MBA experience shaped you this far?

**CL:** I am deeply grateful for my experiences at MBA. I have been more than prepared to excel in the classroom here at Stanford and have not had any problems adjusting at all. All of those MBA themes have paid off, and my MBA teachers have given me all the tools that I need to succeed. Also, the student-teacher relationship that is fostered at MBA has helped me learn how to interact and meet my professors, which is crucial to get the full academic experience.

## 'Swine' continues to haunt campus

By Michael Seitz  
Features Editor

Last spring, on Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, Headmaster Brad Gioia abruptly announced the closure of MBA. A baseball game and track meet were halted, and the microbe track team would not compete in the HVAC championship meet. "Swine Flu," or "H1N1," was labeled a potential killer, like the infamous pandemic of the 1918 Spanish Flu.

"Last spring's H1N1 closure was frustrating for many reasons, because of all the uncertainty around the flu," said Mr. Gioia. "We had no choice about the closure because it was mandated by the Health Department." Fortunately, the fears proved unfounded, and MBA re-opened just as abruptly on Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>.

Three months later, H1N1 has spread around the world and — though it never left — seems to have hit the school in a second wave. Flu-related absences are up, even though the seasonal flu typically doesn't begin until winter.

This time MBA is prepared with hand sanitizers in the restrooms and cafeteria as well as instructional posters to prevent infection and spread by encouraging hand washing and covering coughs.

In spite of MBA's efforts, the number of sicknesses in the month of September

was drastically higher than in years past. As many as fifty-two students were out on a school day in early September when on that same a year ago less than ten students were absent.

But the effects could have been much worse. MBA has made sure students stay home if they have flu symptoms and see their physicians about treatments like the antiviral drug Tamiflu. Mr. Gioia reiterated, "Flu sickness is up this September," but "the problems seem to have tapered off over the

past week. I think it does help to have the awareness of the sanitation information and the hand-washing issues, yet I am sure we can do better and better in this arena."

The vaccine for swine flu will be available in early October. It is unclear whether high school students will be included in the earliest vaccination group. Hopefully, the measures enacted at the start of school will keep the H1N1 virus from becoming a serious health problem at MBA.



The summer has come and gone, but Swine Flu never left. Wash your hands!

## New grant

continued from page 1

very excited about this rare opportunity, and when asked about the new grants, Spanish teacher Patsy Lanigan said, "The new foreign language Wilson grants are very exciting. This is an unmatched opportunity for our students, and we are grateful to the Wilson family for sharing with us."

MBA is still in the planning phase of these grants, and it is as yet undecided what sort of application process will be involved and what requirements will be necessary to be accepted.

Being discussed now are questions such as the following: How many people from each language should be accepted? Should there be an equal number of people per language, or should there be several students going who are taking a popular language, such as Spanish, and only a few going taking a less popular language, such as Chinese? What is the right age for students to go on one of these exchanges? Should a B average French II student take priority over an A+ French I student?

Although there are still several issues that need to be resolved, those receiving the grant should be chosen by January or February, and all in all the Wilson grants should be a great opportunity for those lucky enough to receive them.

## Service project begins second year of lessons

By Rob Edwards  
Staff Writer

If you are an MBA student, then you probably have the annual task of trying to decide where to devote the bulk of your service hours. Maybe you feel like feeding the needy and want to work at Soup Kitchen, or maybe you feel that Burundi tutoring is your passion. But if you are passionate about music and feel that you would like to share your gift with underprivileged kids, then the Backfield in Motion Music Lessons are for you.

I had the idea to start this program last year, and with the help of Ms. Pippin and a few of my friends we were able to get underway in the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester. We felt that although there were so many other great service opportunities at MBA, none of them were music related, and we wanted to change that. By the end of last year, we had 20 MBA students teaching guitar, piano, and bass lessons to over 50 kids from Backfield in Motion every Saturday. It was a great learning experience, and this year we hope to fine tune it more by narrowing down the number of kids and accept only the ones that are truly committed to these lessons, as many of them are.

Believe it or not, there were many of these kids that had never seen or heard a guitar before, and it was amazing to see how much an impact an instrument can make



George Curtis teaches music lessons through Backfield in Motion. If you have an unused instrument, consider donating.

on a child's life, when we take so much for granted in our own lives.

Not only is this program a great way to make a difference, but it is also just plain fun. There is nothing more rewarding

than participating in something that can not only change lives but also be extremely enjoyable. If you are interested in teaching, here is the way it works: we meet at MBA on Saturdays about 20 minutes before the

lessons start to go over what needs to be taught that day, and then we split up into individual groups and teach for about 45-50 minutes. If you are interested in teaching, please contact me, Rob Edwards, or Ms. Pippin.

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## The Informant! good for more than laughs

By Trey Howard  
Staff Writer

*The Informant!* is based on the true story of Mark Whitacre, a principal executive at Archer-Daniels-Midland during the 1990s, who worked with the FBI in their investigation of his company's global price-fixing schemes. Whitacre gained notoriety in the mid-nineties when his role as the highest ranking whistle-blower ever was leaked to the public.

He is portrayed by Matt Damon as a brilliant, naïve, shrewd, mostly well-intentioned, but often very foolish man whose mind works in a series of random information. This strange character is what makes this film so exceptionally funny, creating humor in even the most dramatic situations.

Whitacre plays the role of informant gleefully. He describes himself as a white hat taking down the dark hats, and he fully believes that good will prevail in the end. Whitacre seems to trust everyone, and a lot of what's fun about *The Informant!* is how it plays off this gullibility.

This film employs all three types of irony, with a lot of this film's comedy stemming from dramatic irony. The audience knows that what Mark Whitacre is doing is stupid, but he never does.

The majority of this film spans from 1992, when Whitacre first becomes involved with the FBI, to about 1997, when the case takes some surprising turns for him.

This very funny movie grows more fascinating as it wears on. Director Steven Soderbergh crafts it in such a way that you



Matt Damon entertains and intrigues.

start watching the film believing one thing, but as the film progresses, your perception changes as rapidly as the events unfold. Soderbergh is a unique filmmaker. He is prolific in his output, averaging a film per year, alternating between mainstream and experimental. He supplies Matt Damon with a supporting cast filled mostly with comedians, and he is able to find the right tone to suit this unusual satire.

The result is a film that is easy to enjoy, but is still thought-provoking enough to stay with you well after the film's ending. *The Informant!* is a supremely entertaining film.

## An old Coppola thriller worth revisiting

By Trey Howard  
Staff Writer

Harry Caul's job is to record the conversations of unsuspecting people for the shady characters who hire him. Caul's job and the guilt which grows from it form the essence of Francis Ford Coppola's Academy Award nominated *The Conversation*, a 1974 film that works successfully as a character study and a suspense thriller with equal measure.

Harry Caul, played by Gene Hackman, seems to split his time between creating handy contraptions for his job and eavesdropping on other people's conversations. The early scenes of the movie reveal that Caul has garnered a sterling reputation from his job and is highly respected among his invidious peers. These scenes also reveal that Harry Caul still feels guilty over the murder of three people, unintentionally the result of a surveillance job he pulled off years before the events of this film.

This guilt comes into play as Caul, at the beginning of the film, achieves the most ambitious wiretapping of his career but is alarmed by what he hears in a young couple's conversation. After selling the tapes to a high-powered official's assistant, Caul revisits the recording and becomes more and more frightened each time he listens. Could these tapes lead to more deaths on Caul's conscience, or is he just being paranoid?

The complicated plot centers on Caul, as he attempts to find out what the conversation means and to prevent something bad from happening to the young couple that he suspects are in danger. Its intricate plot rises to a conclusion so surprising that



Coppola builds suspense and

it compelled me to watch the film again as soon as it was over.

Part of the film's greatness that doesn't reveal itself without multiple viewings is the fully realized character it creates with Harry Caul. Although Gene Hackman plays Caul as an enigma, the movie offers subtle details that make him a memorable character. Caul is a devout Catholic, his home is confined to the barest of furnishings, he says very little, and he plays the saxophone. These seemingly insignificant details become important in understanding the nature of the character and how he responds to the circumstances in the film.

Hackman is outstanding. Coppola was at his peak, directing this film in between the first two parts of *The Godfather*, and the supporting cast includes Harrison Ford, Teri Garr, John Cazale, Cindy Williams, and Robert Duvall, in a small, uncredited role. *The Conversation* delivers as an exciting mystery with a great cast and flawless direction, perfect for anyone who enjoys thrillers.

## TV line-ups start weekend Thursday night

By Lucas Littlejohn  
Staff Writer

The fall of 2009 will be a satisfying time indeed for TV lovers thanks to the wide range of excellent shows from which to choose. With the selection from broadcasters like NBC, ABC, FOX, and CBS, MBA students are sure to find shows which will hook them. Here are a few introductions to heavy-hitters that everyone should keep his eyes on:

### The Office

*The Office*, a comedy, is one of the most popular shows on NBC, as well as a personal favorite. Steve Carell stars as Michael, the head of a small paper company called Dunder-Mifflin in small-town Pennsylvania. It may be difficult to start watching it if someone has never seen it before, because the show has built up character profiles across its first five seasons. (*The Office* is now in its sixth.) A first-timer may not understand these characters or the humor, which is very dry and sarcastic. However, as all veterans of *The Office* will tell you, it is a must watch. It is on at 8 p.m. central on Thursday nights.

### Fringe

*Fringe*, in the drama/sci-fi category, is a very popular show on FOX. The show is about two FBI agents, played by Peter Bishop and Anna Torv, who investigate crimes committed by a bioterrorist organization. One of the investigators is forced to ask his father, with whom he is not on good terms, to help the agents as they try to solve the crimes. In its material, the show is very comparable to *X-Files*. *Fringe* is also on at 8 p.m. central on Thursday nights.

### The Mentalist

*The Mentalist* is a detective show airing on CBS. It is about a man named Patrick Jane, played by Simon Baker, who works with the FBI on different cases. Before he worked with the police, he was an independent psychic who dealt with murders. He started working with the government after his wife and daughter were murdered by one of the serial killers he is trying to track. *The Mentalist* is on at 9 p.m. central on Thursday nights.

If you are interested in these wildly entertaining shows, it looks like your Thursday nights are going to be booked up for a while.



(clockwise) The Office, Fringe and The Mentalist will keep Thursday booked.

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## Sonic is good, but my life is interesting, too

By Richard Wall, aka R-Dubs  
Captain, Food Review Team

Instead of a boring food article that just says, "I like this place. The food is good," I am going to mix it up. I, R-Dubs, will tell you what most food reviews tell you about taste, price, atmosphere, etc. However, a food experience does not start and end when you walk through the doors of that restaurant. I'm going to review two great places, one of which is fairly famous, and one that is not as advertised. I'll also tell about what I did before and after my eating experience.

### Sonic: America's Drive-In

Most everyone has gone to Sonic before. If you have not, go there as soon as you can. Over the summer, this place became my favorite fast food joint. Everyone knows it's not a conventional fast food joint, however, as there are areas to drive up, park your car, and then order. One can also sit on the patio and eat, or go through the drive-thru. The prices are good, comparable to any fast food place. I went there three times in one week recently. The first time was with the Food Review staff's resident lineman, Kevin Carr. After hitting up the Vandy game, we went to Wendy's, then Taco Bell, and finally the Sonic in Bellevue. I got a medium cherry slush, which was delicious. I forgot what we did afterwards.

The second Sonic run was on a school night with food aficionado and resident Star Trek expert Thompson Barr, or T-Barr. We were doing a project for Art History class, taking pictures of Greek sculpture in the city of Nashville. The Sonic at 1906 Charlotte Avenue has no Ionic columns, but it does make a phenomenal medium orange

slush, as we both got one. It was T-Barr's idea to stop at Sonic, and it was only after we had ordered that he realized that he had forgotten his wallet. Afterwards, we took more pictures of Greek columns and went back to chill at the T-Barr's Pad. One important aspect of this particular trip was our playlist, which consisted mostly of songs by the Red Hot Chili Peppers, Black Eyed Peas, and Cascada.

The third and final Sonic run was the Friday night of the McCallie game (Roll Red). I had no plans, so I thought I'd just hang out by myself. I went down Charlotte Pike for a while and chilled in places like Dick's Sporting Goods and Target, but, when my business was done there, there was nothing left for R-Dubs to do except go to the Sonic at 6308 Charlotte Pike. I actually ordered food this time. I got a Sonic burger, fries, a medium green apple slush, and some cheese sticks. This particular Sonic loses points because the waitress failed to compliment my fedora, but regained those points because they had their speakers playing "Our Song" by Taylor Swift. At each of these Sonics, the order took about three to five minutes to arrive. Sonic gets 9 out of 10, so go there now.

### TEQUILA'S

Tequila's is an "authentic Mexican restaurant" at 3736 Annex Avenue. It's in the same area as Strike and Spare. R-Dubs and Kevin Carr were present, and T-Barr would have been there, but he was visiting a college. We were seated immediately. We got chips and salsa thirty seconds after being seated. The chips were awesome. The waiter took drink orders at forty seconds. We got our food very quickly as well.

I ordered chicken fajitas, and Kevin



Richard would like to stress the importance of the entire dining experience.

got a quesadilla. The portions were good, and I did not leave the restaurant hungry. The waiters were good with refills as well. They let us change the channel from Nascar to College football. The music playing in the restaurant was your typical Mexican fiesta music, which is always fun.

The total price for the fajitas, quesadilla, drinks, and chips rounded up to about \$22, so it's more expensive than Taco Bell, but it's acceptable. I believe it will be a great experience if you happen to be in the Nashville West area, which has a variety of other places to visit, like Strike and Spare, Red Robin, Target, Best Buy, Dick's Sporting Goods, and, of course, a Sonic just over the hill.

R-dubs gives Tequila's a 9/10, only because R-Dubs' stomach does not react well with Mexican food. Kevin's patented *Lineman Rating* was 8.75 burritos out of 10 burritos, but no one wants to leave a burrito uneaten, so we'll just make that 9/10. T-Barr would have given it a 5/10, because there was no Cascada or Black Eyed Peas playing.

When you go to these places, try to mix it up a bit. At Sonic, try to order a different flavor of slush every time. Also, try to take advantage of the location of each of these places. In the next issue of *The Bell Ringer*, the Food Review team will review another restaurant or two and again share the overall experience!

## Former MBA student runs hot dog hang-out

By Blake Burns  
Staff Writer

Chicago native Adam Deal grew up in Nashville, where he attended MBA for two years. Deal said that he had always loved hot dogs and wanted to open a hot dog place of his own in town. At that time, there were no other hot dog places in the area.

In January 2007, Deal opened his first restaurant, just off Nolensville Road. Wanting to be closer to the student population, he moved near Vanderbilt. The Dog of Nashville is located at 2127 Belmont Avenue, close to McDougal's and the Belmont Theater.

The sporty atmosphere of The Dog of Nashville is accented with three large flat-screen televisions. It also offers free wi-fi, which makes it all the more tempting to students. I started off with a delicious quarter-pound hot dog topped with chili, cheese, and bacon. I also enjoyed one of TDON's specialties - homemade potato chips tossed in buffalo sauce and served with a side of ranch dressing for dipping. Just when I thought it couldn't get any better, I experienced deep-fried Oreos! Some other offerings include veggie dogs, onion rings, and hand-battered corn dogs - just to name a few.

Deal said that he would love for some MBA guys to stop by after a Vandy or MBA game.



The Dog of Nashville sports a sleek interior. Owner Adam Deal, a former MBA student, hopes to make it a common hang-out.

## Cross country finds leaders in junior class

By George Swenson  
Staff Writer

The 2009 Cross Country Team looks to capture its first state title since 1998, after a strong state runner-up season last year. When asked the main goal of the team, it is undoubtedly to win the state championship. On the path to achieve this goal, the team will be led by a trio of juniors: Michael Peters, Hayes McCord, and Ryan Hill.

Michael Peters came to MBA in his freshman year and has been running for the varsity team ever since. He has been a vital contributor during his years on the team, including being a member of the 2008 Great America Cross Country Festival's first-place team. His personal goal is to win the individual state title, which is very well possible, if he "plays [his] cards right." In addition, he is looking to drop his times from last season and to continue to be an all-state runner as he was last year. Michael's strength is mental toughness, which will drive him to continue running through the pain. He enjoys running because it presents challenges he must overcome and gives him an adrenaline rush from pushing his body to the limit. Michael also says that if the team runs well in state, "[the team] can end up running in the Nike Cross Southeast Regional."

Ryan Hill also has high hopes for the season. With six of the top seven runners returning from last season, Ryan knows that the team will perform well in the Tennessee

Classic, the McCallie Invitational, the Great American Cross Country Festival, and the state meet. Ryan started running in the seventh grade and has been on the varsity team since his freshman year. However, Ryan was injured during his freshman year and was not able to run, making one of his main goals "to stay healthy and to run below the sixteen-minute mark." Ryan runs cross-country because "it is a release, it is simple, and it's a great way to stay in shape." Ryan explains: "God has given me a gift, and I have simply worked with it." While not running, Ryan enjoys playing guitar in his band.

Hayes McCord began running for MBA in the eighth grade and joined the varsity team during his freshman year. His goal is to cut his times down from last year and to defend the team's title in the Great American race. He also hopes that some of the younger runners will step up to fill a few open spots. Hayes would also like to be an all-state runner, which he accomplished last year. Although Hayes admits he "complains a lot about running, [he] just happens to be good at this sport." While Hayes is not running, he enjoys all outdoor activities, but especially hunting and fishing.

The leadership, experience, and determination of these three juniors give MBA a great opportunity for the cross-country team to perform well and complete the team's goal of winning the state championship.



Coach Roderick Russ speaks with star juniors McCord, Peters, and Hill. All three have high hopes for the remaining season.

## Golf wraps up season

By Alex Apple  
Sports Editor

There is breaking news in the golf world: Roe Moore is still stuck in the bunker on the 12<sup>th</sup> hole at the Golf Club of Tennessee.

The MBA golf team started the year with 5 senior golfers and several other talented golfers. The team was loaded with potential, but there were many questions about whether that potential would translate into success. They won their first match against Harpeth High School with Tyler Leroy shooting a team low 67.

The Big Red then lost their next two matches before finally getting a victory against Father Ryan at Hermitage Golf

Course. Tyler Leroy led the team once again along with Hayden Morgan, both shooting under par. At the next match MBA beat BGA by a narrow margin. Once again the team got strong play from Hayden Morgan who shot 37, and Overton Thompson made a rare appearance shooting 45.

The Big Red then beat Marshall County, but lost their final two matches of the year to Brentwood Academy and McCallie. Alex Snow said that the biggest surprise of the golf season was "John Michael McGinn playing a huge role in the team's success, playing in all but one match as a first-year senior."

This week the team is playing in the region tournament at Tim's Ford Golf Course. With a strong showing, the team has a chance to reach the state tournament which will be held at Old Fort Golf Course in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. The strong region team consists of Roe Moore, Austin Doebler, Tyler Leroy, Tyler Paslick, and Hayden Morgan.

Senior Overton Thompson said of his golf career, "I loved being on the team and am grateful for all the memories I have made. I really bonded with the coaches, especially Coach Howell, and with the team and have really enjoyed the experience. I am sad to finally have to hang up the clubs. I will miss this team."

The team finished with a 4-4 match record. Though the team will graduate 5 seniors, the squad should also be strong next year. They will be counting on current underclassmen, Hayden Morgan, Austin Doebler, Roe Moore, and George Swenson.



Tyler and other seniors will be missed.



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# Football stars attract collegiate attention...

By Kyle Brantley  
Sports Editor

Although the accolades and accomplishments of the MBA football team are well known, the individuals that drive the team to these new heights don't get quite as much recognition. Three MBA football players stand above the rest this year in terms of individual contributions to the team: Brad Bars, Fitz Lassing, and Andrew Fletcher. Each one of these players is being recruited by Division I schools who are vying for their services. These recruits get gobs of letters daily from these schools to try and persuade them to grace their campuses. Right now, these three studs are gracing the campus of MBA, and I recently had the opportunity to sit down and get inside the minds of these three prized football sensations.

## Brad Bars

**Bell Ringer:** Who is going after you the hardest in terms of recruiting right now?

**Brad Bars:** There are about eight schools that are very interested right now. I already hold two offers, from **Army** and **Harvard**. I could pretty much say I could go to any Ivy League school and play, and those are definitely options. I'm looking to pick up some more offers also. The other schools that are recruiting me are **Tennessee**, **Vanderbilt**, **Kentucky**, **Purdue**, **Baylor**, and **Rutgers**.

**BR:** How much mail would you say you get on daily basis?

**BB:** On a daily basis I get about six to eight common letters, which are pretty basic and sent to a ton of recruits. Sometimes you get the hand-written letter, which you enjoy more because they put more thought into it, and I probably get one to two of those a day.

**BR:** How many schools have called you? Do you have any strong relationships with coaches?

**BB:** Coach Chaney at Tennessee and Coach Cain at Vanderbilt have been doing an awesome job. In terms of Harvard, Coach Reno's up there; he's been calling me a bunch, and I have a real good relationship with him. Shawn Clark from Purdue is a great guy, and I relate well to him.

**BR:** How many camps did you actually go to this summer?

**BB:** I went to six camps this summer, so it was a busy summer. The thing was, at every camp I got really good reviews—everyone was really positive. I started out by going to Tennessee in early June, then Vanderbilt, Kentucky, Purdue, Notre Dame, and Ole Miss. The positive thing was that all the coaches were like, "Wow, why don't you have more offers?" And I didn't have an answer. I was like, "I don't know!" I was hanging with all the running backs, tight ends, tackling them, interceptions, you know, the whole deal. One of the guys went up to the coach at Kentucky and was like, "This guy's better than me, and you've offered me, and you haven't offered him!" Those camps really made me better and made the MBA team better, because when one player gets better, it makes the whole team better.

**BR:** Do you know why those schools haven't pulled the trigger and given you

an offer?

**BB:** The schools are not just recruiting me at one position—some at linebacker, some at defensive end, and some at tight end. And all these schools want tape; they want the first three games of the regular season, so I'll probably send that to about ten or twenty schools. I think that's what they're waiting on. Once I get a bigger offer, more schools will jump in. I think I'm going to get more offers.

**BR:** What have you enjoyed most about the recruiting process?

**BB:** Once you're getting recruited, they'll let you go to the games. So whatever team is recruiting you, you can call that coach for an unofficial visit, and they'll give you three tickets. You get to be on the field, right there at the game. You get to have a player-like experience.

**BR:** Have you scheduled out what games you're going to this fall?

**BB:** The MBA team goes first right now, because on Saturday we're reviewing film early. But I think I'm going to go to two Vanderbilt games: probably Ole Miss and Georgia. I want to see the good teams against the team that's recruiting me. I'm going to two Tennessee games. I'm going to make it to a Purdue game if I can, possibly Ole Miss, possibly Kentucky, possibly Army. I may visit Harvard in late November,



Brad Bars

early December. I may go to Baylor over fall break on an unofficial visit.

**BR:** If a school like Vandy or Tennessee or Ole Miss pulled the trigger in two weeks and offered you, would you go ahead and give them a soft verbal commitment?

**BB:** I'm one of those guys that wants to have as many options as I can. Honestly, I don't think I'm going to decide on college until January. I just want to see where all the chips fall into place and think deeply about what the options are and what's best for me, where I feel most comfortable, and where I can succeed and do well: academically and

athletically. If a major conference school offered me, that would really influence me. That'd leave a great impression on me and definitely factor in.

**BR:** So a note to schools: the first major conference school to offer Brad Bars will definitely get a leg up. We'll get the word out. So what are some of the things coaches like about your game?

**BB:** At defensive end and tight end, they're like, "Wow you've got so much speed." Throughout the camps, I don't think one tight end caught a ball against me one on one. I did really well, staying inside out, forcing them one way. They like the speed and side-to-side cover skills. They also like my size; I weigh 220 pounds, and I could probably fill out more and get to 250 or 260. A lot of schools see so much potential, because there's no doubt I could get up to 250. I'm always so active, doing basketball, track, and baseball, that there's never any time to rest and let your body recover and put on some weight. So there's a lot of upside in that.

**BR:** Currently, you're a two-star on *rivals.com*. Are you hoping to bump that up to a three-star?

**BB:** Yeah, for sure. I was told by about five *rivals.com* guys that I'd be a three-star. I was told that. And then when they came out with the rankings, I was a little disappointed. Not disappointed, I just know that I'm better than that. I know I'm definitely a three-star. That's where I belong. I have the highest rating you can have as a two star—5.4. I could definitely get up to a 5.7, I think. I haven't really thought a ton about it, but I definitely was shocked to see that.

## Fitz Lassing

**Bell Ringer:** Who is going after you the hardest in terms of recruiting?

**Fitz Lassing:** I would say probably **Vandy**, **UVA**, and **Harvard**. I'm about to send my film out this weekend, and then we'll know who's really interested, because they really want to see your senior year stuff. But for now, those are pretty high. Also, **Stanford**, **Georgia Tech**, **UNC**, **Duke** are high up there as well.

**BR:** How much mail do you get a day?

**FL:** A lot—Some is not for football, but a lot is for football, too. Once you get on a school's mailing list, they'll send out stuff once or twice a week. Stanford sends something out every day pretty much. I'll get stuff from all over—from Vandy, Notre Dame, everywhere. A handwritten letter is a big deal if you get that; those are pretty rare. But the generic mail comes in all the time.

**BR:** If you could play at any college, what would be the perfect school?

**FL:** I don't think there's one perfect school. First of all, most of the schools I'm looking at aren't just football schools: I'd go there even if I didn't play football. That's one thing my parents think is really important, because football always ends. But I guess a perfect school would have a good football team, obviously, and a school you could enjoy without football, too—good academics, good campus, and good life outside football.

**BR:** What's most important in a school?



Fitz Lassing

**FL:** There are a lot of factors. Obviously you want to have a good relationship with the coaches. As far as facilities, that's not a huge deal because pretty much any college you go to has good facilities. Obviously, playing in the SEC is a big deal, and how well the program's doing and everything.

**BR:** Do you think that you're close to getting some offers?

**FL:** First of all, the tape is a big deal. During the summer they see you a lot, so they just want to see you improve from your junior to your senior year to see if you've gotten any better. So tape will hopefully help. A couple schools like Harvard and Army told me if that if I want to go there, they'll give me an offer. They basically said if you still want to come here at the end of the year, you let us know and we'll see what we can do about getting you in. Besides that, for DI offers, Vandy is close, and UVA I've been talking to a lot. I'd say if the film looks good to them that they have a chance of offering.

**BR:** What have you enjoyed most about the recruiting process so far?

**FL:** It's all been fun. Playing high school football has been a dream of mine since I've been little, so even having the chance to go to the next level is exciting. To have schools talking to you, it's really cool to realize that all that hard work is finally paying off.

**BR:** How many camps did you go to this summer?

**FL:** Duke, UNC, Harvard, UVA, and Vandy—so five camps. They're called camps, and in theory they're supposed to get you better at football, but it's basically just

*continued on page 15*

## ...and hold their own in the recruiting process

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recruiting. They get you to run a forty, do the shuttle, and do some specific drills. Basically the coaches want to see you in person and see how big you really are, how fast you really are, and how you move in space. They're evaluating you the whole time. If you don't go to camp, it's hard for them to offer you. You can tell some things from film, but it's hard to see everything.

**BR:** At which camp did you perform the best?

**FL:** Coming into camps I had an injury: I messed up my back during track season. So every camp I got better. But, unfortunately, Harvard was my last camp, so that was my best 40. In the drills, I did about the same in all the camps. Overall, I think I did pretty well in all the drills, and the 40 and the shuttle got better every camp. You're about the same speed everywhere, but you learn little tricks. The more you do it, the better you're going to get.

**BR:** What do coaches like most about your game?

**FL:** As far as smarts go, they're all happy, especially the higher academic schools, that they aren't going to have to pull strings to get me in. They're like, "You can get in without football." So, that's just a plus. As far as on the field, each school is recruiting me at different positions. Some schools want me on defense, and some schools want me on offense. A lot of my tape from last season is pass rushing, so they're looking at that the most, or maybe a rush D as an outside linebacker, because I had a lot of sacks last year, so I guess coming off the edge and dealing with blockers and stuff is a plus. On offense it's just versatility. I guess I'm a little too big and not quite fast enough to be a running back, but I can

fit in and do a lot of things — catch, block, run, do whatever. A lot of offenses have a position, like an H-back or tight end, that does everything like that.

**BR:** Have any coaches called you, and do you have a strong relationship with any of them?

**FL:** A lot of coaches have called. Specifically Coach Cain from Vandy calls every couple weeks, this guy from Wofford keeps calling me, Furman's called, UNC, Stanford, Georgia Tech, Duke, and Coach Reno from Harvard have all called. You talk to a lot of coaches, because there are dead periods and times where they can talk to you, and they call just to make sure that they are on your list and everything. Sometimes it can be kind of weird, because you'll get a coach you don't want to talk to. Most of the time, when they call, it's them talking and you listening, so you just kind of have to go with it. They just ask you a couple of yes or no questions.

**BR:** Would you rather play offense or defense in college?

**FL:** It doesn't really matter to me. I like both of them. Probably in high school I've played more on defense, but I feel I can do either one fine in college. So wherever a school wants me is where I'll play.

### Andrew Fletcher

**Bell Ringer:** Who is going after you the hardest right now in terms of recruiting?

**Andrew Fletcher:** Right now I would have to say the University of Louisville and Vanderbilt University. The list has dwindled down from fifteen possible schools down to about five, and right now the colleges that have the most interest are U of L and VU.

**BR:** How much mail do you get per day?

**AF:** Every day, on average, I get about one or two letters. Sometimes they are generic letters from places I've never heard of; sometimes they are from big schools like Alabama and Tennessee. Three to four times a week I'll also get a personalized letter.

**BR:** What school would be the perfect school for you?

**AF:** Perfect school would be anywhere in the SEC for me, mainly because I grew up liking Tennessee and living in the South. A winning team would also have to be in the mix. For me, going to Vanderbilt would be ideal because my grades aren't that high.

**BR:** What's most important in school for you?

**AF:** How badly they want me definitely comes into it. There are some schools that don't show any interest, but kind of expect you to have interest, and you're interested just because they are a big time program. But, at the same time, you get more interested in other schools since they are contacting you all the time. I'd also say the coaches are really important. There are some coaches out there that don't really seem to care about you and think they can get anyone they want. Then there are other coaches that treat you like their sons, are there for you, are really nice, and ask about your family, not just about the games.

**BR:** Do you think that you'll get an offer to play college ball?

**AF:** Hopefully, Louisville is in the near future. They aren't really waiting on anything, just for their head coach to decide if he wants to. They've already signed a punter, so he needs to decide if he wants a field goal kicker, too. Vanderbilt is waiting until the end of the season to see how Ryan Fowler, the red-shirt freshman, does and how he handles the season. If he ends up not doing so well, they said they are definitely going to offer a kicker. Hopefully, that is going to be me, but there are three or four different guys that could get that scholarship. If he's decent, they may still sign a kicker and gray-shirt the signee, meaning I would have to sit out a whole college football season. Then I could red-shirt the year after that.

**BR:** What have you enjoyed most about the whole recruiting process?

**AF:** When you get letters from schools, and you sit in your room and think for five minutes that I could actually play there. Or getting letters from coaches, it's a really good feeling to know someone out there is caring for you. Probably the highlight of my recruiting so far has been when I went to Tennessee and got to go through the Vol Walk, walking through 60,000 people with some of the top players and recruits in the country, with everyone calling your name. I've always watched the Vol Walk, but it felt great to finally be in it.

**BR:** How many camps and recruiting events did you attend this summer?

**AF:** I went to six or seven different schools and ten to eleven different camps in all. I repeated some of the camps twice

because they want you to come back. I went to two national recruiting combine camps — Chris Sailer's and *prokicker.com*'s camps.

**BR:** Have you ever had a coach personally call you or contact you in other ways besides letters?

**AF:** Besides letters, emails are the best way for coaches to keep in contact. They aren't allowed to call you or text you during certain times of the year, but they can always email you. But if you call them, they can answer. I've had probably ten coaches call me. Some would call me inviting me to camp, some would call after camp saying they really like me, and then some would call and say they are going to sign another kicker, and wish me the best of luck.

**BR:** What do the coaches like about your game?

**AF:** My experience is the big thing. Playing two years of varsity football, then getting MVP sophomore year was a big thing. I've been in every situation possible except the game-winning kick; I've won games for our team, but not really at the very end.\* They are recruiting me more for field goals than kickoffs, because my kickoffs are not as strong as they potentially could be. Right now I have really good form, because I've had really good coaches, so they know that I have the potential to be a solid college kicker.

\*Andrew nailed a 36 yard field goal with one second remaining to give MBA the victory over McCallie on September 25, just one week after he made the comment that he had never made a game-winning field goal.



Andrew Fletcher

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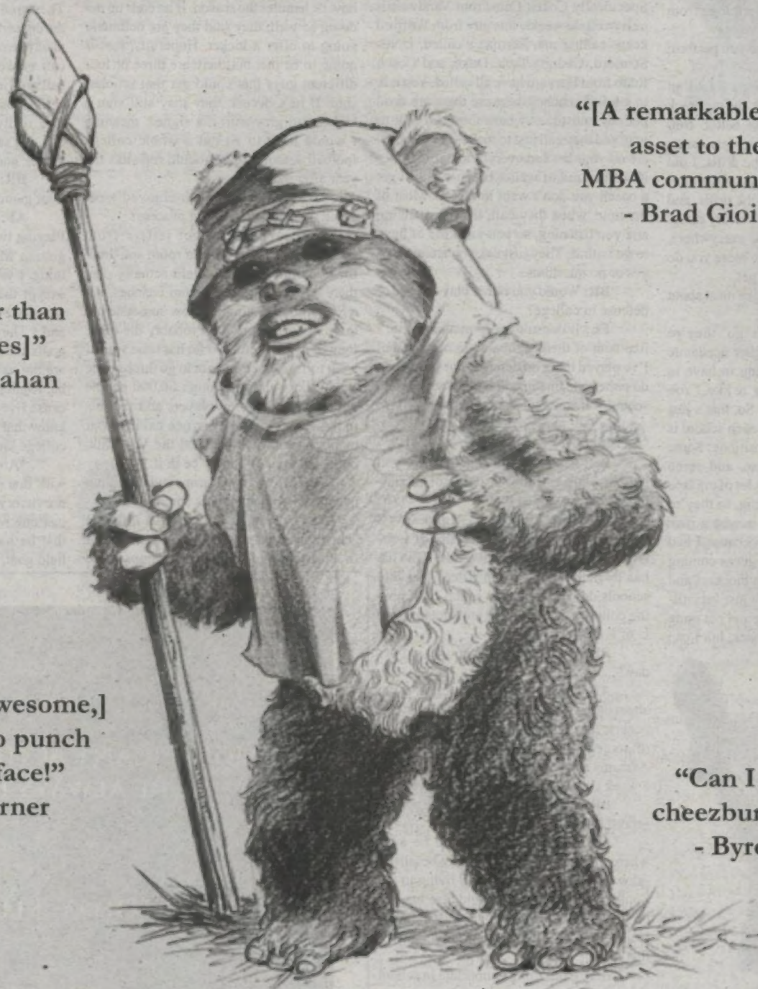
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